construction at Kandla and Mangalore which are expected to be commissioned in October, 1996. With this, the availabillty of LPG shall be increased through enhanced imports. New bottling plants and more LPG distributorships are being opened by Government Oil Companies to cater to higher demand. The entier waiting list is expected to be cleared by 2001 A.D...

[English]

Implementation of Projects

1638. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the pace of progress in the country has become very slow due to the delay in the implementation of different projects;

(b) if so, whether Government have felt the need to streamline the procedure in order to reduce the delay in clearing these projects; and

(c) if so, the details of the steps taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) Delay in the project implementation is one of the reasons which have been affecting the pace of progress in the economic development of the country.

(b) Government has taken certain steps to streamline the procedures to reduce the delay in implementation of projects.

(c) The details of the steps being taken to reduce delay in the implementation of projects is enclosed in the Statement.

STATEMENT

Steps taken by the Government to streamline for preparing the original estimates and implementation of Projects

(i) Two-stage project approval to ensure adequate preparation, environmental and other clearances and infrastructure planning at stage-I before a project is finally approved for implementation at stage-II.

(ii) Intensive monitoring of projects at various levels. This enables the monitoring agencies to identify constraints and help the management in taking remedial measures.

(iii) Indepth critical review of the progress by the project authorities and Administrative Ministries.

(iv) Setting up to Task Force/Empowered Committees for speedy finalisation of contract packages, solving land acquisition and other problems.

(v) close follow up by the Department of Programme Implementation, concerned administrative Ministries and project authorities with the State Government, equipment suppliers, contractors, consultants and other concerned agencies to minimise delays.

(vi) Inter-ministrial coordination and interaction.

(vii) emphasis on preparation of realistic project implementation plan.

(viii) Review by the Committee of Secretaries of the specific project facing constrants.

Solar Power Programme

1639. SHRI SOUMYA RANJAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to launch commercialisation of solar power programme in the country at a large scale; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) and (b). A large scale Integrated Solar Combined Cycle (ISCC) Power Project is proposed to be set up in Rajasthan which will include a 35 MW Solar Thermal Power Plant. Global Environmental Facility (GEF) has accorded 'in principle' approval to provide grant assistance of US$ 45 million towards the incremental cost of the solar power component. In response to a Request for Proposals (RFP) issued by the Government of Rajasthan, Letters of Intent (LOI) have been issued by the State Government to three companies for setting up of sollar power projects of aggregate capacity 300 MW based on Build-Own-Operate-maintain (B-O-O-M) basis. Government of Uttar Pradesh has also invited offers for setting up of 5-50 MW Solar power project by private developers on Build-Own-Operate-Maintain (B-O-O-M) basis. Two partially grid connected Solar Photovoltaic (SPV) Power Plants of 100 KW capacity each have already been set up in Uttar Pradesh with financial support by the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources.

Monsoon Trends

1640. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether his attention has been invited to the news-item "Monsoon Plays Hide and Seek" appearing in the 'Economic Times', New Delhi, July 3, 1996; and